



Branching Out

October 9, 2009

The mission of Three Rivers Environmental Educators is to promote collaboration of resources and provide networking opportunities for environmental educators in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia.

TREE meetings:

Tuesday, January 12, at Friends of the Rappahannock in Fredricksburg.

We will be nominating new officers. Please send nominations to charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

President: Preside at meetings, develop agenda, and represent organization at Virginia Environmental Education conference and other events.

Vice-President: Presides at meetings in president's absence, helps develop programs for meetings.

Secretary: Take notes at meetings, compile minutes, and forward e-mail announcements to members

Publicity chair: New office. Will publicize meetings and organization to media and potential members.

I will stay on as newsletter editor.

Local Events:

Send your events to charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

Other Events:

Project WILD

November 4th, 9am-4pm, Virginia Zoo

www.projectwild.org

This program emphasizes wildlife because of its intrinsic and ecological values, as well as its importance as a basis for teaching how ecosystems function. The Project WILD K-12 Curriculum and Activity Guide focuses on wildlife and habitat. Each is organized in topic units and instructors may use one or many Project WILD activities or the entire set of activities to serve effectively as the basis for a course of study.

The workshop is free; registration required by October 21st to Holly Carson at holly.carson@norfolk.gov or 441-1347

Free Tools and other Cool Stuff

Climate Change Wildlife and Wildlands Toolkit

US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) Web site for formal and informal educators providing news and information on global and climate change issues.

<http://www.globalchange.gov/resources/educators/to...>

Climate Change Presentations for High Schools

The Alliance for Climate Education (ACE) will visit your high school to deliver exciting science-based multimedia presentations on climate education including delving into tangible solutions to stop climate destruction. ACE also offers grant and scholarship opportunities to empower students to take action. View their trailer on YouTube:

www.tinyurl.com/acetrailler and visit their Web site for details.

<http://www.climateeducation.org/>

Coastal and Waterfront Smart Growth

NOAA, the EPA, and other agencies have released a smart growth guide that will help coastal and waterfront communities tackle threats from sea level rise, stronger hurricanes, flooding, and other challenges. Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities features ten smart growth guidelines for development along the water. The publication and website highlights tools, techniques, and examples of smart growth in practice. <http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/>

EarthTrends

EarthTrends is an online database maintained by the World Resources Institute that focuses on environmental, social, and economic trends. Research topics include Coastal and Marine Ecosystems, Climate and Atmosphere, and more. The website includes maps, information guides, a monthly newsletter, and other resources. <http://earthtrends.wri.org/>

HAB Monitoring in Whyville

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) is using a new way to teach kids about using of scientific inquiry to address environmental problems, inside the online virtual learning world "Whyville." A NCCOS-sponsored scientist from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution created and regularly updates a harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring feature including the virtual Plankton Lab at the Whyville Oceanographic Institute. About half of the roughly 750,000 kids visiting the lab so far have collected samples from the virtual ocean, used the lab to identify algal species and bloom-causing nutrient, traced the nutrient to its source, and stemmed the nutrient flow by restoring a virtual wetland. Be sure to check out the virtual reef, also.

<http://www.whyville.net/smmk/nice>

Herpetological Conservation and Biology

The open access journal Herpetological Conservation and Biology offers articles about the ecology, life history, conservation, and management of amphibians and reptiles.

<http://www.herpconbio.org/>

Help! It's an HAB!

Help! It's an HAB!, from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences is part of a series of lessons that provide information and materials to teach students about the effects of harmful algal blooms on fish, as well as devising remediation techniques. The website features links to other related lessons and pages as well as a chart of education standards met by these activities by grade level. http://www.bigelow.org/edhab/help_hab.html

Journey South

Give your students hands-on experience with nature by participating in Journey South, the fall portion of Annenberg Media's Journey North program for K-12 students and teachers. The international program puts students in touch with students in other countries as together they track wildlife migrations and seasonal growth and change. <http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

Marine Debris Poster

The North American Marine Environment Protection Association offers a downloadable marine debris poster, "Do You Know Where Your Litter Is? Right Where You Left It." http://www.namepa.net/Downloads/News/NAMEPA_Marine_Debris_Poster.pdf

Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network Lessons

The goal of the Nebraska Earth Systems Education Network, part of the School of Natural Resources of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, is to improve linkages between K-12 educators and Earth science resources. The website hosts a variety of lessons about the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and interdisciplinary. <http://nesen.unl.edu/Lessons/Lessons.asp>

Ocean Motion

Learn to identify weather-related patterns in satellite data of ocean surface currents, ocean temperature, and winds with special attention given to El Niño. Read about the mechanisms that trigger this ocean phenomena. Find out about the interplay between the ocean and the atmosphere that creates global weather patterns that affect millions of people. <http://www.oceanmotion.org/>

One Million Acts of Green

Cisco offers the One Million Acts of Green website to show that individual, organizational, and community acts of green add up to something significant. The project allows visitors to record acts of green and share ideas to encourage others. The calculator shows your positive impact. The website offers educational resources on climate change, a green career guide, and more. <http://www.greennexus.com/omaog/index.aspx>

Pulse of the Planets' Educator Resources

The National Science Foundation's Pulse of the Planet offers lesson plans using Pulse of the Planet programs and sounds as a focus for learning activities on a variety of subjects. The lesson plans are aligned to national science education standards for grades K - 12. All lesson plans, along with downloadable audio files, are free for educational use; free registration is required. <http://pulseplanet.com/educatorresources>

Splash of Math

SeaWorld provides teachers with up-to-date information and activities that can motivate students to conserve wildlife, the oceans, and the natural world. The Splash of Math Teacher's Guide for grades 4-8 was developed at SeaWorld with input from the San Diego County Office of Education. The goal is to offer students an active, hands-on tutorial about how mathematical skills relate to real-life situations, specifically marinelife studies and marine zoological park careers. This curriculum supports national standards for mathematics education. <http://www.seaworld.org/just-for-teachers/guides/pdf/splash-of-math-4-8.pdf?src=2009WODsilverpopWildlifeAugM>

Xeno-Canto

Xeno-Canto is a community database of shared bird sounds from the Americas and around the world. The website also offers bird songs of almost 4500 species, which can be searched by map, collection, and randomly. <http://www.xeno-canto.org/>

Tools with a Cost:

Understanding Climate Toolkit

The American Geological Institute, in conjunction with Earth Science Week 2009 (October 11-17), released a new toolkit that enables students, educators and the general public to explore this year's theme, Understanding Climate. The 2009 Earth Science Week Toolkit features a variety of educational climate resources from the USGS, NASA, and NOAA. The toolkit is available for the cost of shipping and handling.

<http://www.earthsciweek.org/materials/>

Grants, Volunteers, and Funding:

New website to register your volunteer projects

President Obama has recently unveiled an initiative calling on all Americans to help in our nation's recovery by volunteering in their communities this summer. The President's call to summer service launches United We Serve, a sustained effort to expand the size and impact of volunteer efforts in addressing tough challenges facing the nation.

To make it easy for Americans to get involved, the President is urging Americans to visit [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov). Visitors to [Serve.gov](http://www.Serve.gov) can type in their zip code to find local volunteer opportunities, recruit volunteers by [registering their organization's projects](#), or get [ideas for creating their own projects](#) with friends, families, and neighbors. Plan a project, join a project and register your project at www.serve.gov.

Jobs

NACD Spring Internship Deadline Approaching

Do you know a current college student or recent grad looking to gain experience working in conservation policy in Washington, D.C. next spring? If so, NACD's internship program might be just the opportunity. NACD interns can gain first-hand experience working with national leaders on a wide range of agricultural, conservation and environmental policy issues both on Capitol Hill and with federal agencies. NACD internships are paid positions and complement a traditional 15-week semester.

NACD is accepting applications for the spring 2010 semester until October 15. Additional information, including an internship application, is available online at http://www.nacdnet.org/about/intern_program/.

CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

The Headwaters Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for the position of Conservation Technician. This full-time position will provide technical assistance to the District in implementing the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practice cost-share program. Funds are being made available for this temporary, full-time position through a state grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation under the Water Quality Improvement Act and will be allocated through June 30, 2010; however, carry-over funds from previous allocations will allow this position to continue past 6/30/2010 until they expire, or unless additional allocations from the state are available. The salary range for this position is \$25,000 - \$28,000 annually.

The desirable candidate must be a high school graduate (higher educational level preferred) and have a Virginia driver's license. Additional experience in farming, agricultural or natural resources field is required, and ability to work with the public is necessary. Obtain applications from the District office, or from our website: www.headwaters.vaswcd.org. Completed forms must be received by the District office no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 30, 2009. Inquire to:

**HEADWATERS SWCD
70 Dick Huff Lane
P.O. Box 70
Verona, VA 24482-0070
(Located in the Augusta County Government Center complex)
or call (540) 248-6218, ext. 3**

Got news, job postings, events, or other information to share? Want to brag about awards? Hear about something that would be of interest to members? Send them to charlene.talcott@dcv.virginia.gov

Please forward this to anyone that might be interested. Want to be included on the TREE mailings? Contact faye.andrashko@va.nacdnet.net